



LOOK
INSIDE FOR
DETAILS:

- The RARS General Meeting is the 1st Tuesday of each month.
- The RARS net meets every night @ 8 pm on 146.64.
- The RARS Technical and Trader's net is Saturdays @ 8:30 pm or following the RARS net.
- RARS meets for a monthly dinner on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

**IN THIS
ISSUE:**

About	2
RARS	
D-STAR & RARS	3
President's Corner	5
RARS Minutes	11
SKYWARN Rec. Day	18

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society's

EXCITER

December 2007

Issue No. 441



Don't forget about the RARS Annual Holiday Party. The festivities begin at 7 pm. We'll have a short club meeting at 7:30 pm and then be treated to a performance by the Encore Singers. Club members and their families are welcome to attend. We ask that everyone bring a snack to share. RARS will provide drinks, plates, and utensils.

Ham Radio Assists the New Raleigh Marathon

Article by Gary Pearce KN4AQ

Ham radio played its part in the new incarnation of the Raleigh Marathon, this time called the "City of Oaks Marathon." Organized by Bill Cole KG4CXY and the Carolina Helping Hams, 10 hams manned positions at the water "stops" ever other mile (the runners don't stop), covered a four-mile stretch in Umstead Park where SAG vehicles couldn't go, and shadowed the race director. Dick Orander KD4ISC served as Net Control.

We had a somewhat more minor role in the City of Oaks Marathon than we did in the original Raleigh Marathons (back at the "turn of the century.") Bill Cole says that's because the new organizers didn't know what we could do for them, and he didn't get a chance to meet with them until just five days before the race.

"The meeting was an eye opener," Cole said. "They were still trying to piece together communications with cell phones and Nextel PTTs, but were starting to have concerns about signal coverage and the logistics of point-to-point communications (versus the good-ole' VHF party line). They had heard secondhand about how we helped out the previous marathons, but didn't seem grasp what we (Amateur Radio) could do for the event.

(Continued on page 6)



Above: Bob Conder K4RLC works at the marathon.

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The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc. (RARS) was founded in 1969 and continues to serve and support the Amateur Radio community in the greater Triangle area. In 1999, the society incorporated a new RARS and obtained 501(c)(3) non-profit tax status.

The objectives of the club are to promote worldwide friendship through amateur radio; to be of public service by providing radio communications in

times of disaster, emergency, or civic need; to educate members in radio technique; and to provide training classes to assist in obtaining amateur radio licenses.

Anyone interested in amateur radio is eligible to apply for membership. Due for regular licensed amateurs are \$18 per year (from July 1 through June 30). Additional immediate family members pay \$5 each per year. Dues for licensed ama-

teurs older than 59 or younger than 16 are \$12 per year. Dues for non-licensed associate members are \$9 per year.

Applications for membership may be obtained from the treasurer or the RARS website (RARS.org).



The Exciter is the official newsletter of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society. It appears each month as a PDF on the RARS website at www.rars.org. Members receive email notification when the latest version is available.

Please provide your email address to the Treasurer.

The Exciter welcomes articles, advertising, and other contributions. To submit a piece to the newsletter, please contact the Editor.

The views expressed in the *Exciter* are those

of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor or RARS. The Editor reserves the right to edit any and all pieces.

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D-STAR Comes to Raleigh

Article by Gary Pearce KN4AQ

RARS has a digital voice repeater on the air! It's a temporary setup, thanks to the loan of a D-STAR repeater from Rhett Isley, KB4HG. The ICOM RP4000 D-STAR repeater is operating on 442.550 MHz (digital voice only), and is set up at the RARS Bayleaf repeater site, temporarily replacing our 444.525 analog machine.

The intended home for this repeater is 1000' up the WUNC tower in Orange County. But it's not quite ready to go up there yet. The antenna's not installed, but perhaps more important will be some testing to see if the Channel 4 TV transmitter (67.25 MHz video carrier, 71.75 MHz audio carrier) will cause a problem with the receiver's 70 MHz IF. That test isn't ready either. So it's set up on our antenna at 250' on the tower just off I-540 between Creedmore and Six Forks roads.

Rhett had the repeater on the air at his 300' tower site in Sanford for a while, and I could hit it OK from its fringe territory as I drove around the Triangle with a 50-watt mobile. But there were only two local users with D-STAR equipment in Sanford, and it stole his analog repeater's antenna to put it on, so

(Continued on page 8)

RARS General Meeting

Date: First Tuesday of each month

Location: Forest Hills Baptist Church
201 Dixie Trail
Raleigh, NC 27607

Time: People begin arriving at 7 pm.
The meeting officially starts
at 7:30 pm.

RARS Monthly Dinner

Join us on the 2nd Tuesday of each month for the RARS dinner. It's open to everyone: RARS members, non-members, friends, and family — feel free to bring your little ones!

Golden Corral @ 6129 Glenwood Avenue in Raleigh. Dinner begins at 6:30 pm.

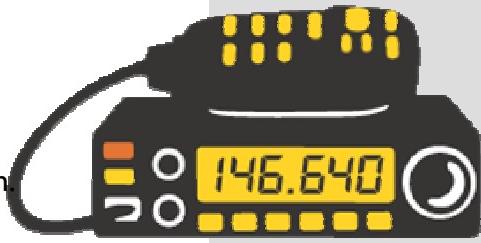
RARS Repeaters in Raleigh

145.13 (82.5 PL)

146.64

444.525 (82.5 PL)

Join us for the nightly RARS net @ 8 pm on the 146.64. All hams holding a Technician class license or higher are invited to check-in. We welcome both RARS and non-RARS members to the net.



VE Testing

The RARS VEs will accept walk-in testing at the February, May, August, and November RARS meetings; the RARSfest in April; the Cary Swapfest in July; the JARSfest in November; and following RARS license classes.

Please bring a photo ID, your current license, a copy of your current license, and any CSCCs you have for credit. Visit www.rars.org for more information.

Hamfest Calendar

December 1	GAARC Swap-Fest www.gaarc.com Gastonia, NC
January 12	Winston-Salem FirstFest www.w4nc.com/hamfestmemberinfo.html Winston-Salem, NC
February 2	FrostFest www.frostfest.com Richmond, VA

Dates courtesy of SERA Repeater Journal and other sources. If you would like your even listed in the *Exciter*, please contact the Editor.

RARS Birthdays

Sherri Gabel	_____	12/1
John	W2YBN	12/2
Nancy	KD4PCB	12/5
Ronnie	W4RJF	12/6
Virginia	NC4VA	12/9
Bruce	KC4UQN	12/9
Clyde	WB2EYC	12/10
Mike	WA4BPJ	12/11
Frank	KA2FWC	12/12
Roger	KS4VX	12/12
Sam	KI4TRG	12/13
Conner	KE4ZNS	12/15
Cliff	AG4XR	12/17
Kevin	KC4THW	12/18
Roger	W3EZB	12/18
Bert	W4FMN	12/21
Keith	KI4BZC	12/22
David	KG4RIY	12/27
Dick	KD4ISC	12/31
Gerry	K4GCJ	12/31
Katie	KE4DRL	12/31

October 2007 RARS Net Reports

RARS Two Meter Traffic/Ragchew Net

Check-ins: 437
Traffic: 32/36
Minutes: 660
Sessions: 31

Special Interest Nets

Check-ins: 75
Minutes: 520
Sessions: 13

Upcoming RARS Programs

December: Annual RARS Holiday Party.
Tuesday, December 4th @ 7pm.

January: The January RARS meeting has been tentatively rescheduled from Jan. 1 to Jan. 8, pending approval from our venue. Stay tuned to www.rars.org and the nightly nets for additional details.

Welcome to RARS!

Gerry Jacobs K4GCJ

President's Corner

**Column by Selene Montgomery KG4RMT
RARS President**

It doesn't seem possible, but the holiday season is upon us.

Please join us for the RARS Holiday Celebration at our meeting on Tuesday, December 4 at Forest Hills Baptist Church, located at Dixie Trail and Clark Avenue. We ask that members bring a snack to share; the club will furnish drinks, plates and utensils. After a short meeting, the program will be holiday entertainment provided by the Encore Singers. Their presentation is sure to bring a smile to your face, and put a song in your heart. As always, all are welcome to join us. Refreshments will begin at 7:00 p.m., a short meeting will start at 7:30 p.m., and the performance will follow shortly after the meeting.

There were many members busy with public service this past month. The VE team had another busy month as well. Our thanks go to them for putting amateur radio out there for others to take note of in a positive way.

Make note of the new date for RARSFEST 2008 – Saturday, April 12, 2008 at the NC State Fair Exposition Building. Also be aware of the new day and venue for the 2008 Richmond Frostfest – Saturday, February 2, 2008 at the Richmond Raceway Complex. Look for updates on these events in the Exciter and on the Internet.

I hope you have an enjoyable, and meaningful, holiday season. May 2008 bring you an abundance of love, laughter and peace.

Public Service Opportunities

This is a great time of year to set aside a few hours to help serve your community. If you're looking for information about upcoming public service opportunities, the Carolina Helping Hams can help you find volunteer events.

Check out the Carolina Helping Hams site today!

www.hampublicservice.org

Ham Radio Assists the New Raleigh Marathon (continued from page 1)

"After going over our capabilities and preliminary deployment, they were amazed. 'Why didn't we get a hold of you earlier? At minimum, we could have saved the cost of renting 30 Nextel phones. You guys seem to have a lot of experience working these events – we could have used your input in the initial planning stages.'

"But it was race day when the Marathon Director had his eureka moment. It was clear within the first ½ hour after the start of the race that we were providing support no one else could. Like magic, the ham volunteers were assessing course setup, spotting race progress, and multiple other details – all without even being asked. We had answers before he could even think to ask the question. Man, did we look good.

"And the really sweet part was that we made it look easy – nothing like having a crew of 10 ham volunteers with multiple years of PS experience! Can't say enough what a pleasure and privilege it is to work with such a great group of hams."

The marathon did benefit from the continuing explosion of communications technology in the area. Multiple radio systems were in use, from the Raleigh PD's good-ole' UHF system, to the NC VIPER system used by EMS, to those Nextel "walkie-talkie" radios used by some of the event staff. The hams used the 146.775 KD4RAA repeater. It provided complete HT coverage of the course. The marathon route started near the fairgrounds, looped through downtown Raleigh, then out through Umstead Park, and back to Carter-Finley Stadium for the finish. The RARS 146.64 repeater was available as a backup but was not needed.

The event ran smoothly. We assisted with a few logistics problems. We discovered that EMS was missing at one stop. The message was relayed through their radio system, and the "lost" ambulance was redirected to the correct position. A few calls went out for water and "emergency Vaseline" – chafing is an issue when you run 26 miles.

Above: Gary Pearce KN4AQ rides his bike while helping with the marathon.

About four miles of the course, in the 15-18 mile zone, were in Umstead Park with a water stop about halfway in. Bob Conder K4RLC (a.k.a. "Backpack Bob") hiked in to cover that stop, while I rode my bike back and forth over that hilly terrain to cover the area where SAGS couldn't go. The Raleigh Fire Dept. had two EMS bike teams and a "Gator" in the park as well, but they mostly stayed put in three spots.



The Raleigh PD had a trail car following the last runner (well, walker, at that point). I knew the police car couldn't go through the park, so as I heard they were getting close (I was monitoring the RPD TAC channel on the "B" side of my dual-band Kenwood F6A HT), I rode there to see how that would be handled. Turns out nobody had planned to follow the last participant through the park. She was in good shape, but she was a long way back from the next-to-last walker. So I volunteered to follow her through the park.

That was uneventful, but as we were about 15 minutes from the park exit, I could hear the trail police car, which went around the park and was waiting at the exit, asking if anyone knew where we were. The police car was waiting a considerable distance from where Bill KG4CXY was stationed near the exit, so he couldn't just walk over and relay the position directly. I was giving regular position reports, but they weren't being relayed as far as the trail police car. I'm tempted to make a joke about "interoperability," but there's a real lesson in that minor episode about how difficult it is to pass quick, time-value traffic through several hands, radios, and bands – especially if nobody in charge of communications has the "big picture" (I'm not talking about Bill here – I'm not sure there was anyone coordinating all communications). The trail car didn't really need to know where we were – they were just curious...maybe a bit impatient. If we had had a real problem in the park, a message would have reached EMS quickly.

One missing element was APRS. Bill Cole did put out a call for APRS assistance, but it was a little late, and nobody responded. Either the message didn't reach the right ears, or those who could help chose not to. Other areas of the country seem to have integrated APRS into their communications support system. Unfortunately, we have not.

In the end, everything went well and the marathon was a great success. I'm glad ham radio was invited, and I think we made a worthwhile contribution. We'll probably be earlier to the party next time.

Thanks to all the hams who participated in this public service event!

- KI4ZEF David Fontaine
- KD4ISC Dick Orander
- WA4AVU Don Downs
- AI4RT John Snellen
- KN4AQ Gary Pearce
- NZ0I Charles Scharlau (Charles was running the half-marathon)
- K9FIL Phil Cunningham
- K4RLC Bob Conder
- KG4FIQ Larry Holt
- KE4UTX John Lloyd
- KG4CXY Bill Cole

D-STAR Comes to Raleigh (continued from page 3)

his analog users were getting a little antsy to get their repeater back. Our UHF repeater is out for a factory upgrade, so the antenna is available for a while (and our UHF users will get antsy, too).



Above: The D-STAR repeater, controller, and power supply, along with a custom diagnostic box built by Arch KT4AT.

A Little Info about D-STAR

So what's the deal with D-STAR? For an in-depth report, I'll point you to my story in the September QST ("Operating D-STAR"). But briefly, the facts are these:

D-STAR is a fully digital voice system for VHF/UHF, much like your cell phone. ICOM has been marketing repeaters and user radios for about two years, now, although the very first D-STAR equipment appeared more like five years ago. The technology was developed by the Japan Amateur Radio League (JARL), and except for the vocoder, it's open-source. Anyone can make a D-STAR radio, but they will have to buy the AMBE vocoder. So far, ICOM is in the game alone, but they've made a big commitment to it, with

repeaters for 144, 440 and 1200 MHz, and an expanding line of handheld and mobile radios. The repeaters are only digital, but all the user radios are dual-mode (analog and D-STAR digital), and most offer D-STAR as a plug-in upgrade from an analog-only radio. For the time being, the radios with the D-STAR module are pretty expensive.

There are several advantages, and a few disadvantages, to digital voice. The big thing you notice is that there is no noise - no "mobile flutter" or picket-fencing. For the most part, a signal is either rock solid, or it's gone. If a signal sits right at the threshold, you will hear garble, but never noise. Voices do have a distinct "digital" quality to them — a little "robotic" or "mechanical." Fidelity is OK, but not as good as the best analog FM. I'd like it to be better.

Weak signal performance is pretty good, or so I'm told. Longer-term D-STAR users and repeater owners tell me that a D-STAR signal will hold in solid down to the point that an analog FM signal is very noisy. I have yet to do a good A/B comparison. I can use our borrowed machine from most places that I could use the analog repeater, but I can't say it's much better or worse — except at night, and I'll explain that in a minute.



Other advantages include a signal that uses half the bandwidth of analog FM. This won't mean much to you, but it makes the frequency coordinators happy. Or at least it will some day. Right now, they're very unhappy because there are a lot of people who want to put up D-STAR repeaters on two-meters, and there isn't any spectrum available. Next, there is a 1200 bps data stream that accompanies the voice. That's right, you can send text or small files as you talk, if you connect to a computer.

Left: Cliff AG4XR bolts the D-STAR repeater into the RARS rack at Bayleaf.

Finally, I'll mention networking. D-STAR is designed to be connected to the Internet, and with that connection a repeater becomes part of a worldwide D-STAR network. You can talk to hams using other connected D-STAR repeaters anywhere in the world. You're thinking "linked repeaters," maybe IRLP or Echolink. But D-STAR is different. Instead of dialing an access code to connect to another repeater, you enter a repeater's callsign into your radio, and every time you transmit, your audio is routed over the Internet to that repeater, and you're heard there. Or, you can enter an individual user's callsign into your radio, and your audio will be routed to the last repeater that user keyed up... sort of. The repeaters report their activity to a central server (a "trust" server, they call it), and the server updates all the other repeaters. At the moment, that only happens once a day, so that "last used repeater" isn't too close to real-time. But if you travel, and talk back to your home repeater once you arrive at your destination, your home repeater knows where you are right away.

Our borrowed repeater is not connected to the Internet. It operates stand-alone.

The downsides? Well, to begin with, the radios are expensive! D-STAR adds \$100 to some of ICOM's monoband radios, and \$300 to the dual-band 2820 mobile (because it comes with a GPS.. oh, yeah, you can send position information using D-STAR, though it's not compatible with the APRS network). In our experimenting with the repeater at the RARS site, we've seen that D-STAR doesn't handle noise and interference very well. The tower light that just makes a noticeable buzz on analog signals at night tears weaker D-STAR signals up completely. You get that garble, or nothing at all, on a signal that's just fine in the daytime. And when you "double" with someone on an analog repeater, one signal has a good chance of winning, even if you hear a heterodyne noise in the background. With D-STAR, there's a pretty good chance that neither signal will make it, and nothing is repeated.

Which brings up one of the bigger "problems" with D-STAR: it's very hard to analyze a signal for quality. Those of us who have been around FM a while get all kinds of clues about signal quality and problems just by listening, before we break out the test equipment. With D-STAR, the clues are gone. It's perfect, garble, or gone. And the garble doesn't tell you anything except that you can't decode the signal. No hiss, whine, buzz or fizz to tell you why.

Repeater owners are not that enamored of ICOM's products. RF-wise, the repeater radios are only fair. You need to add a filter to the front-end to make them play in most high-RF repeater environments. The controller is bare-bones. Its job is to route your signal from the receiver to the transmitter, and to other transmitters either locally (on other bands) or via the Internet. There's no courtesy tone, no autopatch, no voice ID, no meeting announcements, and not even any hang-time. None of the stuff we usually associate with a repeater. That makes it hard on users, too, because you can't tell if you're "getting in" until someone comes back to you and talks. Many repeater owners have reported that things just don't always work right, and they can't tell why. Signals that ought to be fine aren't repeated, but a few minutes later, they are. There's little documentation and no diagnostics, either software or hardware, available yet.

Let's not be TOO hard on ICOM, though. We're in first-generation, early-adopter, baby-steps territory here.
 (Continued on next page)

If D-STAR shows signs that it's being accepted, everything will get better, and probably cheaper. Will D-STAR be accepted as *the* digital standard? No one can say! Something else may come along that's better (eventually something better will certainly be developed — that's one of the advantages of digital). D-STAR is a plug-in on the available radios, so I suppose if some other standard appears and beats D-STAR, those of us with D-STAR equipment might be able to buy a board to switch to that. I'm guessing about that. ICOM's not mentioning it, just as a presidential candidate won't talk about accepting the position of Vice President until the primary is pretty well settled.

D-STAR does have a competitor of sorts. Public-Safety radio has a digital side called APCO-25, or just P-25. The state's "VIPER" trunking system is P-25 compatible, and users from the Wake County Sheriff to the Raleigh Fire Department use P-25. The radios we borrowed for our Red Cross operation at the State Fair were P-25 digital on the VIPER system.

Not surprisingly, some hams have bought up surplus P-25 equipment and put it on the ham bands. The 444.475 repeater in Cary is P-25 (and analog — most P-25 systems are dual-mode analog/digital). No ham radios have P-25, so to use it you have to get a used commercial radio. I guess you could buy a new one, if you have several thousand dollars to sink into a radio you can't program yourself. Some hams love using commercial gear - it's tougher and handles high RF better - despite the limitations on flexibility. Among them are the P-25 fans.

What is the digital future in Raleigh? Danny Hampton K4ITL has a UHF D-STAR repeater getting ready to be put near the top of one of the WRAL TV towers, and Rhett's is slated for the WUNC tower. So it looks good. Danny's working on making the repeaters perform better before he commits them to the tower - he's in the "not happy with ICOM" camp. But sooner or later, we'll have good D-STAR coverage.

What about RARS? Our 444.525 analog repeater will go back up, probably in January. I'm waiting for equipment that could really push D-STAR up the charts — dual-mode repeaters that will handle analog and D-STAR digital. If we have the opportunity to get something like that, I'll recommend it to the Board. There are some hams experimenting with adding D-STAR to existing analog FM repeater equipment. I don't want to experiment with RARS equipment, but when it gets prime-time, we'll look at it. And I'd like to network it.

Below: Gary KN4AQ keys up the repeater for the first time (in Raleigh) with his ICOM IC-91AD HT.



What should you do? If you're in the market for a new radio, and money's not that tight, consider making me a loan... er, consider D-STAR. The analog performance and features of the IC-91 HT, the ID-800 and 2820 mobiles are competitive with all the other radios out there, though only the D-STAR feature makes them standouts. Actually, the 2820 is pretty special without D-STAR, but Kenwood's new radio does APRS tricks that ICOM never considered for analog (the D-STAR mobiles do have the usual Data connector for use with an external TNC). So it depends on how much you like to live on the edge. In other cities where D-STAR has been in operation for up to a year, it has attracted a handful of users. Sometimes a big handful, and most of them are extra-interested in digital.

If that sounds like you, c'mon out on the edge and join us.

Board Meeting - October 2007

Minutes of the RARS Board of Directors Meeting for October 2007

The Board of Directors meeting of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society was conducted on October 16, 2007 at the Forest Hills Baptist Church located on Dixie Trail.

Attendance: Board – Selene Montgomery KG4RMT, Hank Montgomery K4HM, Rick Kelly-Crapse KB4TKQ, Chuck Littlewood K4HF, Greg Seamster KE4PAX, Charles Swindell WB4DCM, Rod Thomson KI4LSN, Neal Fisher N4HAF and Dick Orander KD4ISC.

President Selene Montgomery KG4RMT called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

On a motion from Rick KB4TKQ and a second from Charlie WB4DCM, the minutes for the September meeting were approved as presented.

Officers' Reports

President's report – Selene KG4RMT advised she would make comments as appropriate throughout the meeting.

Vice President's report – Rick KB4TKQ stated the Encore Singers would be back for our December general meeting program. The November meeting program will be presented by Virginia Enzor NC4VA on her experiences at the ARRL Teacher Institute. The January program will be a members 'meet and greet' opportunity. Members will be urged to bring snacks for the December meeting. The club will provide drinks and paper goods/utensils.

Treasurer's report – Greg KE4PAX advised there were 218 RARS members. Reimbursements to the youth taking the recent RARS class have been made from the Dick Bitner Memorial Fund. The club has also made a donation to the First Alliance Church for the use of their facility while conducting the recent Technician classes.

Committee Reports

Education – Chuck K4HF and Rod KI4LSN reported that Herb Lacy W4HL will be conducting a Boy Scout Technician class. The RARS VE team will be helping with testing for this group. Rod also reported that JOTA activities are shaping up and looking good.

Nomination Committee - Chuck K4HF advised that all of the committee work is done. Ken McEwen KI4OTO is being added to the list of nominees as an At-Large director. The floor will be open for nominations and elections will take place at the November general meeting.

Webmaster – Hank K4HM advised he has been coordinating updates with Steve Worley KB4HDQ. Hank is still working on a follow up to the status of the Dick Bitner Memorial
 (Continued on next page)

Board Meeting - October 2007

Fund contributions information posted on the website. He is still awaiting contact from Dick's family. In the meantime, the website notice has been changed to advise those interested in making a donation to contact the club treasurer. There was additional discussion on last month's suggestion of a silent key page being added to the site. It was decided to table this activity until there was time to allot for making and maintaining this addition.

Field Day – Neal N4HAF provided a quick summary of our contacts and points for the event. The results of this year's activities will be in the December QST.

VE Team – Chuck K4HF asked the group for their thoughts on publishing our W5YI VE team's schedule on the ARRL exam calendar. After a brief discussion, it was decided to stand by the choice of Liz (KO4CK) and Joe (WA4GIR) White on this matter.

Public Service – Dick KD4ISC reported on the recent ham participation at the RTP Diabetes Walk. There are several events taking place throughout October and November that Bill Cole KG4CXY and the Carolina Helping Hams are coordinating. They include two bicycle events for Habitat for Humanity and the City of Oaks Raleigh Marathon. Chuck K4HF advised the Red Cross radio operator activities at the State Fair are going well.

Hamfest – Hank K4HM announced the next meeting of the hamfest committee will take place on this coming Monday at Chuck's K4HF house. There was a brief discussion about suggestions for resolving the scheduling conflict with the hamfest's Saturday date and the usual statewide ARES meeting which is held on the Saturday during the hamfest weekend.

Old Business

Selene KG4RMT reported that she has not been able to make contact with the donor of estate items discussed in the September meeting.

New Business

Selene KG4RMT asked the group if there would be any problems conducting the Board meeting on the scheduled November 20 date due to the Thanksgiving holiday. The general consensus was there would be no conflict with the holiday and the meeting should go on as planned.

General Comments

Dick KD4ISC asked if the youth students from the upcoming Scout Technician class would be reimbursed for their exam session from the Dick Bitner Memorial Fund. Discussion followed along with a review of the motion which governed the reimbursement of youth from the last RARS class. Chuck K4HF made a motion that funds from the Dick Bitner fund cover the fee of 1 test session for each youth under the age of 18 at the RARS VE team test session following the upcoming Scout sponsored class. Charlie WB4DCM

Board Meeting - November 2007

provided a second and the vote carried in favor of the motion. Discussion then followed on how future test sessions for youth should be handled. Hank K4HM made a motion that funds from the Dick Bitner fund cover the fee of 1 test session for youth under the age of 18 at any RARS VE team test session until all of the Dick Bitner funds are used or until the Board votes to modify this motion. Greg KE4PAX provided the second and the vote carried in favor of the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 7:58 pm.

Submitted by Dick Orander, KD4ISC, Secretary

Minutes of the RARS General Meeting for November 2007

The general meeting of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society was conducted on November 6, 2007 at the Forest Hills Baptist Church located on Dixie Trail.

President Selene Montgomery KG4RMT called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

It was announced that VE testing was taking place upstairs.

Selene KG4RMT advised that the minutes from the October meeting were posted in the Exciter. She asked if any corrections were needed and received no comments.

Announcements:

- The next RARS dinner will be on Tuesday, November 13 at 6:30pm at the Golden Corral on Glenwood Avenue. All are invited to attend.
- Board meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at 7pm. All are invited to attend.
- Hamfests: Maysville Myrtle Beachfest on November 10 and JARSfest on November 18.
- New nam information is available on the trader's table.
- The fourth quarter meeting of the 126 Chapter of the Quarter Century Wireless Association (QCWA) will be held on Saturday, December 1 in Lexington. Contact Chuck Littlewood K4HF for more information.

Greg Seamster KE4PAX provided the Treasurer's report. There are 224 RARS members.

(Continued on next page)

Board Meeting - November 2007

Gary Pearce KN4AQ reported that a D-Star repeater is on temporary loan to the area. It's located on the 444.525 tower and is replacing that repeater for the time being. The repeater is in digital mode only and is operating on 442.55.

Visitors were asked to introduce themselves and were welcomed to the meeting.

Virginia Enzor NC4VA announced there will be a basic Skywarn Spotter training session and winter weather seminar conducted on Saturday, November 10. The class will be held at the Triangle Chapter of the American Red Cross located on Peartree Lane from 9 am until 12:30 pm. Pre-register by sending an email to Virginia at nc4va@nc.rr.com. There will be a Technician class, offered primarily to Scouts, that will be held on November 10 and 17 at the Scout office on Atlantic Avenue. Finally, there were over 55 Scouts who earned their radio merit badge at the recent Jamboree On The Air (JOTA) that RARS and CARS club members set up.

Dick Orander KD4ISC informed the group on the recent death of RARS member Hughie Olmstead KF4RDU. He then provided a report on the recent public service events that have taken place. He thanked Bill Cole KG4CXY of the Carolina Helping Hams for organizing the ham crew for a recent Diabetes Association walk, two Habitat for Humanity Bike events and for the recent City of Oaks Raleigh Marathon. He then asked for a round of applause to thank those who participated in these public service events.

Bob Conder K4RLC provided a brief summary on the Field Day results. RARS scored 9220 points. We were third in our class (7A) and number 1 in NC for a club station running emergency power. Final results and details will be in the December QST.

David Crawford KF4VXJ announced the 2007 SET will take place in the near future. ARES members should anticipate actual activation and use of the ICS213 message forms.

Members were reminded that the deadline to submit articles to the Exciter is the Monday before the Board meeting.

Chuck Littlewood K4HF thanked all of those who worked at the Red Cross communications center during the State Fair. Sixty shifts were covered by RARS members, family and friends during the event.

Chuck provided the report from the club's nominating committee. The following members are nominated for tonight's election:

Officers (2-year term)

- President – Selene Montgomery KG4RMT
- Secretary – Charles Swindell WB4DCM

General Meeting • November 2007

Board Members (1-year term)

- Public Information Officer – Gary Pearce KN4AQ
- RARS 2008 Hamfest Chair – Hank Montgomery K4HM
- RARS Exciter Editor – Courtney Enzor KI4HOS
- RARS Net Manager – Mary Holtschneider KG4OQA
- Public Service – John Snellen AI4RT
- At-Large Director – Steve Ferrarini KJ4BX
- At-Large Director – Rod Thomson KI4LSN
- At-Large Director – Ken McEwen KI4OTO
- FM Repeater Chair – Gary Pearce KN4AQ
- W4DW / W4RNC Trustee – Jeff Wittich AC4ZO
- ARRL Liaison – Chuck Littlewood K4HF
- Education Director – Virginia Enzor NC4VA

Committee Chairs (1-year term)

- RARS 2008 Field Day Chair – Neal Fisher N4HAF
- RARS Volunteer Exam Coordinators – Liz White KO4CK and Joe White WA4GIR
- RARS Hospitality Chair – Mary Jo Littlewood K4MJL
- RARS Webmaster – Steve Worley KB4HDQ

Chuck then thanked Hank Montgomery K4HM and Dick Orander KD4ISC for their work with the nominating committee. Nominations from the floor were requested. Hank Montgomery K4HM made a motion to close the nominations. Rick Kelly-Crapse KB4TKQ provided the second and the vote carried in favor of the motion. David Crawford KF4VXJ then made a motion that the Secretary record a unanimous vote for all those nominated. A second was provided by Bob Conder K4RLC and the vote carried in favor of the motion. Chuck then thanked those who were stepping down from their Board or Chair positions as well as those stepping up to take their place.

Next month's meeting will be the December Holiday Party. Members are invited to bring their families to the festivities. The Encore singers will return to entertain us. Please bring a snack to share. The club will provide drinks, paper goods and utensils.

Door prizes were won by: Jerry Jacobs, Mike Thurman KB7NLA and Henry Heller WB2AGA.

Selene KG4RMT thanked Rick Kelly-Crapse KB4TKQ for coordinating tonight's refreshments.

Rick KB4TKQ introduced Virginia Enzor NC4VA who provided the evening program about her experiences at the 2007 ARRL Teacher Institute.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Attendance: 47

Submitted by Dick Orander KD4ISC, RARS Secretary



The **RARS Technical & Trader's net** is held on Saturday evenings on the 146.64 after the 8 pm RARS net.



Amateur Radio Nets

The **VOIP Hurricane net** is held Sundays at 00:00 UTC on the 146.775 repeater with a tone of 88.5 (IRLP node 4260). For information about activation details, go to www.voipwx.net.

Please join us on the **Carolina 440 net** every Monday night at 7:30 pm. This ragchew net utilizes the Carolina 440 UHF Link Repeater System. Comprised of the Raleigh, Down East, and Costal Wilmington link systems, there are currently 19 repeaters on the system, covering 21,168 square miles. For a list of these repeaters, please visit www.carolina440.net.

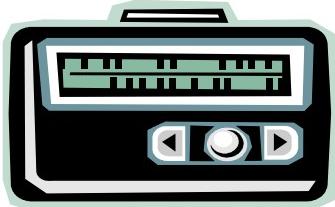


**CAROLINA 440
UHF Link System**
www.carolina440.net

Join us every evening at 8 pm on the 146.64 repeater for the **RARS Two Meter net**. You can give a ragchew, check in and out (this counts for our total numbers reported to the ARRL!), make announcements, and pass traffic. We also offer National Traffic System traffic training. All licensed stations are welcomed to participate in the net as often as they can. This net is also a great way to learn about amateur radio if you are newly licensed!

The **PCTN (Piedmont Coastal Traffic Net)** meets every night at 9 pm on the 146.88. The purpose of the net is to handle/pass NTS formal messages. Amateur stations are encouraged to check-in and participate. The backup repeater is the 147.105 machine with a PL tone of 82.5.





Join the **Tarheel Short Wave Listening (SWL) Special Interest Group (SIG)** net on Monday evenings @ 9 pm on 146.64. We discuss *all* areas of radio monitoring and welcome your logs! We also have a SWL/SIG meeting on the third Monday of the month in addition to our regular net.

Central Carolina SKYWARN

Please join us each Tuesday at 9:15 pm on the 146.88 repeater for the CCS net. On each net there are announcements, check-ins by county, and often a program or training spot. Check us out at www.centralcarolinaskywarn.net.

Upcoming CCS Information nets include:

December 4: "Winter Weather Awareness Week and Review of the December 2002 Ice Storm" with Warning Coordination Meteorologist Jeff Orrock KI4KKX.



The **Mercury Amateur Radio Association Southeast 2 Meter Net** meets at 9 pm every Sunday evening on the 145.13 repeater (tone 82.5). All stations are invited to participate in this net. MARA provides emergency communication support to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The purpose of this net is to assist ham radio operators in preparing to respond to emergencies, test their equipment, improve operating skills, pass traffic, and to provide those with a common interest an opportunity to meet.

MERCURY
AMATEUR
RADIO
ASSOCIATION **MARA**

The **Wake County ARES net** meets Thursdays around 2115 on the 146.88 repeater. We provide discussion and training for the implementation and provision of Emergency Communications for our served agencies, such as the American Red Cross and the local and state Emergency Operations Center. Please join us. www.wakeares.org.

The RARS
Exciter

Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc
PO Box 17124
Raleigh, North Carolina 27619

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SKYWARN Recognition Day was created in 1999 by the National Weather Service and the American Radio Relay League to celebrate the contributions that SKYWARN radio operators make to the National Weather Service. During a 24-hour period, SKYWARN operators visit NWS offices and contact other radio operators across the world.

SKYWARN Recognition Day 2007 officially takes place **Saturday, December 1, 0000-2400 UTC**. Over 100 National Weather Services offices across the nation will participate in this 9th annual event, including the Raleigh National Weather Service.

Central Carolina SKYWARN will join in the fun on Saturday from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, making contacts on 2 meters (146.88, 147.105 (82.5 HZ), 147.135 (82.5 HZ), the Carolina 440 UHF Link System, IRLP (East Coast Reflector 9219), and HF (20, 40, and 80 meters). For a list of repeaters on the Carolina 440 UHF Link System, please visit www.carolina440.net. Radio operators will exchange names, call signs, locations, signal reports, and a 1- or 2-word weather report. CCS will be using the call sign **WX4NC**.

A QSL card has been specially designed for this event. Stations logging a contact with WX4NC may send a SASE to the following address to receive one:

National Weather Service
Raleigh Forecast Office
1005 Capability Drive, Suite 300
Centennial Campus
Raleigh, North Carolina 27606

Stations may also earn an 8.5"x11" event certificate by working just one NWS office. Simply send a SASE and a list of the NWS stations contacted to the following address:

SKYWARN Recognition Day
920 Armory Road
Goodland, KS 67735

For more information about SKYWARN Recognition Day, please visit <http://www.crh.noaa.gov/hamradio/index.php>.

SKYWARN Recognition Day 2007